

Message

From: Bassler, Rachel [Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/26/2019 6:17:57 PM
To: Leon, Heriberto [leon.heriberto@epa.gov]; Benning, Brad [benning.bradley@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: S.H. Bell Desk Statement

Importance: High

Hi Heriberto and Brad,

A reporter with WTTW Chicago is writing an update story on S.H. Bell today and has the following questions. Can you help respond? Please see below.

Thanks,
Rachel

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
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From: Alex Ruppenthal <aruppenthal@wttw.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 1:13 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: S.H. Bell Desk Statement

Hi Rachel,

Thanks again for your continued help.

Just a quick reminder about the questions we discussed:

- How many homes are planned for soil removal due to manganese contamination?
- When will the soil removal begin?
- Can you send an original image file for the photo included in the EPA's most recent fact sheet?
 - <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/05/946572.pdf>

Thanks,

Alex

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From: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 3:24 PM
Subject: S.H. Bell Desk Statement

Desk Statement

This spring 2019, U.S. EPA is planning to clean up residential yards containing excessive manganese near the S.H. Bell facility on Chicago's southeast side. U.S. EPA collected soil samples from more than 100 properties near the facility. Sample results showed surface soil (the top 6 inches) in several yards contained manganese and lead above U.S. EPA's action level. The federal agency uses a "removal management level," or RML, to evaluate the pollution. U.S. EPA set a RML of 5,500 mg/kg for manganese and 400 mg/kg for lead.

U.S. EPA continues to evaluate the lead sampling data and has not yet determined who is responsible or what cleanup activities may need to occur for the lead contamination. U.S. EPA will continue to work with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to review all the 2018 soil sampling data and evaluate possible cleanup levels and cleanup actions as necessary.

Additional Information

U.S. EPA sent a letter to S.H. Bell as a general notice of potential liability and request for information. The company has responded and U.S. EPA is evaluating the completeness of the response.

U.S. EPA mailed fact sheets to residents in the area surrounding the facility to update them on U.S. EPA's progress at the site and provide information for families to protect themselves from metals detected in the soil.

For more information about this site, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/il/sh-bell-chicago-facility>.

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